

WHEN OFFICERS AND MEN MEET

SOMETIMES THE COMMANDER GETS THE WORST OF IT.

Incident Recalled by a Recent Court-Martial—A Meeting in Denver With a Knockout That Was Never Reported.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 5.—The trial by court-martial of a Connecticut post for directing a sergeant of the same command, who was seated in front of the officer at a theatre to change his seat, followed quickly upon the recent strongly expressed determination of the Secretaries of War and of the Navy to put a stop to public humiliation of the enlisted man in uniform.

Many stories of similar incidents reach Washington.

A few months ago two non-commissioned officers from Vancouver Barracks were paid off at the expiration of their enlistments and after they had been re-enlisted were furnished with uniforms in the East wearing their uniforms in the evening, assuming to rig themselves out in civilian clothes, when they made the Eastern circuit.

They stopped off at a Denver hotel to take a look at the town. They saw a public automobile standing in front of one of the Denver hotels, approached the driver and made a dicker with him for a ride around Denver in the motor car.

The two non-coms were just about to step into the automobile when a dapper man, accompanied by two young women, came along. The dapper man was an army officer who had stepped off in Denver to visit some friends and had been in charge of a detachment of recruits taken to a Pacific Coast post. But he was in civilian dress and the two non-coms had no means of knowing that he was an officer.

"Here, I want to engage that machine," said the dapper man to the chauffeur. "Want it for a couple of hours for myself and these two ladies. What are your terms?"

"Wagon's just been engaged, sir, by these two gentlemen," said the driver, indicating the two non-coms in uniform.

The dapper man turned to the two soldiers with a sneer. "Oh! Gentlemen!" he said with a strong accent on the word. "Well, I guess they'll give up the machine to me when I inform them who I am."

Then, turning to the two non-commissioned officers, "I am an officer of cavalry, travelling," he said. "I want this buzz wagon for an hour or so. You two can have it later, or get another one somewhere."

"We'll take it now," quietly observed one of the non-coms.

The dapper man looked dumfounded.

"Do you know whom you are addressing, fellow?" he asked, savagely.

"I heard what you said you were," replied the enlisted man, "but I don't know whether it's true or not. But I do know that, even if you're the Lieutenant-General commanding, you're a mean sort, and that goes as it lays."

The dapper man walked over to the enlisted man who had done the talking, making a demonstration of intended fists when he got close to the non-com, and the latter, hardly shifting his position, simply reached out and knocked the dapper man flat to the pavement with a right hand wallop to the jaw.

Then the two enlisted men stepped into the automobile and the driver whizzed them away. The officer picked himself up, muttering threats against the two soldiers, but never made any report of this matter. He knew that he would not have had a leg to stand on in submitting such a case. But the incident was witnessed by a number of Denver men of some consideration, and the War Department heard about it unofficially not long after it occurred.

An occurrence of a similar sort, but with a different outcome, took place in a San Francisco restaurant two years ago last New Year's. In San Francisco, as in New York, they have the habit of sitting up at the restaurants to see the old year out.

Two enlisted men stationed at the Presidio had one of the small tables on the main floor of the Poodle house, a well known San Francisco restaurant. They had engaged the table for that night a week in advance. They were both men of good Eastern families who had entered the army for the purpose of striving for commissions, and both of them had successfully passed their examinations.

They were sober young chaps, as they had to be to get themselves in line for commissions, and they were enjoying the fun, which was at its height, when about ten minutes before midnight a young man, an officer from the Presidio, accompanied by a somewhat lanky young woman entered. The Presidio officer, looking about him, espied the two enlisted men seated at their table in the corner. They were in civilian dress, but he recognized them, for enlisted men studying for commissions are marked men around a party. The officer, who was slightly the worse for the celebration, approached their table. Although he was in multi they recognized him and, rising, stood at attention and saluted him.

"What time are you fellows due back to the post?" the officer asked them not very civilly.

"At reveille, sir," one of the young men replied.

"Well," said the officer, still pretty off-hand, "you'd better be on your way now. I want that table."

The two soldiers looked keenly mortified. But having worked so hard for their prospective commissions, they did not feel like doing any more to lose their table. They way their chances of getting them. So, after exchanging glances, they started to move away from the table. Just at this point the lanky young woman accompanying the officer moved up.

"Who are these gentlemen, that you are depriving them of their table in such a discourteous way?" she asked the officer.

"Oh, they don't mind," replied the officer, smiling disdainfully. "They're a couple of enlisted bucks from the Presidio."

"Well, whatever they are, they are unselfish men, and their conduct is better than yours," said the young woman with spirit. "I shall not let this table be taken from them."

She then turned to the two enlisted men and said she was a friend of theirs. The crowd around the tables in the meantime had caught on, and they began to jeer the officer and to cheer the young woman.

On his way to the door the feasters who had attracted the incident began to throw rooked spaghetti at him, and by the time he reached the exit door, fuming, he was smeared with the stuff. As a matter of course, this incident never became an official matter, either, although a San Francisco newspaper gave an outline of the story, supposing that the two young enlisted men got their commissions a few months later, and one of them is now serving in the Philippines. In the same command with the officer who stood for the spaghetti shower.

Another case of officer and enlisted man that attracted wide attention in San Francisco some years ago occurred at a famous high jinks club of the Golden Gate town. The seaport scene of a wealthy household, where the staff was a large crowd, had, in a fit of pique, because his mother had come down rather hard upon him for his extravagance, enlisted in the army. He was sent to the Philippines in the infantry regiment stationed on Angel Island, in San Francisco Bay.

His mother's consternation was naturally very great when she found that her son

HIRAM WOODRUFF'S OLD PLACE

A LANDMARK OF TROTTER HISTORY TO DISAPPEAR.

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Upstairs is a large ballroom, taking in one side of the house. Downstairs are a large reception room, parlor, dining room, kitchen and barroom.

Mrs. Woodruff presided over the preparation and serving of the dinners, which were a feature of the roadhouse. She survived her husband twenty years, but went into retirement upon his death.

Beneath the sheds that adjoin Woodruff's old home the rigs of Commodore Vanderbilt, Robert Bonner and George Alley were familiar sights. George Alley owned Dexter, who broke all the trotting records of his time.

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